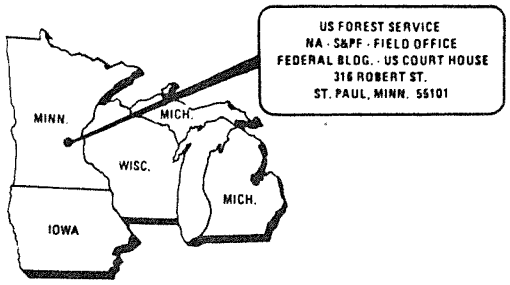
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

5220

Northeastern Area
State & Private Forestry

FOREST PEST MANAGEMENT

Rpt. No. S-72-1 July, 1972



Aspen Defoliation by the Large Aspen Tortrix on the Nicolet National Forest, Wisconsin

by Glen Erickson

INTRODUCTION

Aspen defoliation by the Large Aspen Tortrix, Choristoneura conflictana Wlk., was first reported in 1969 and was wide spread throughout the forest in 1970. (Rpt. No. S-70-6). The occurrence of defoliation has been on the decline since then.

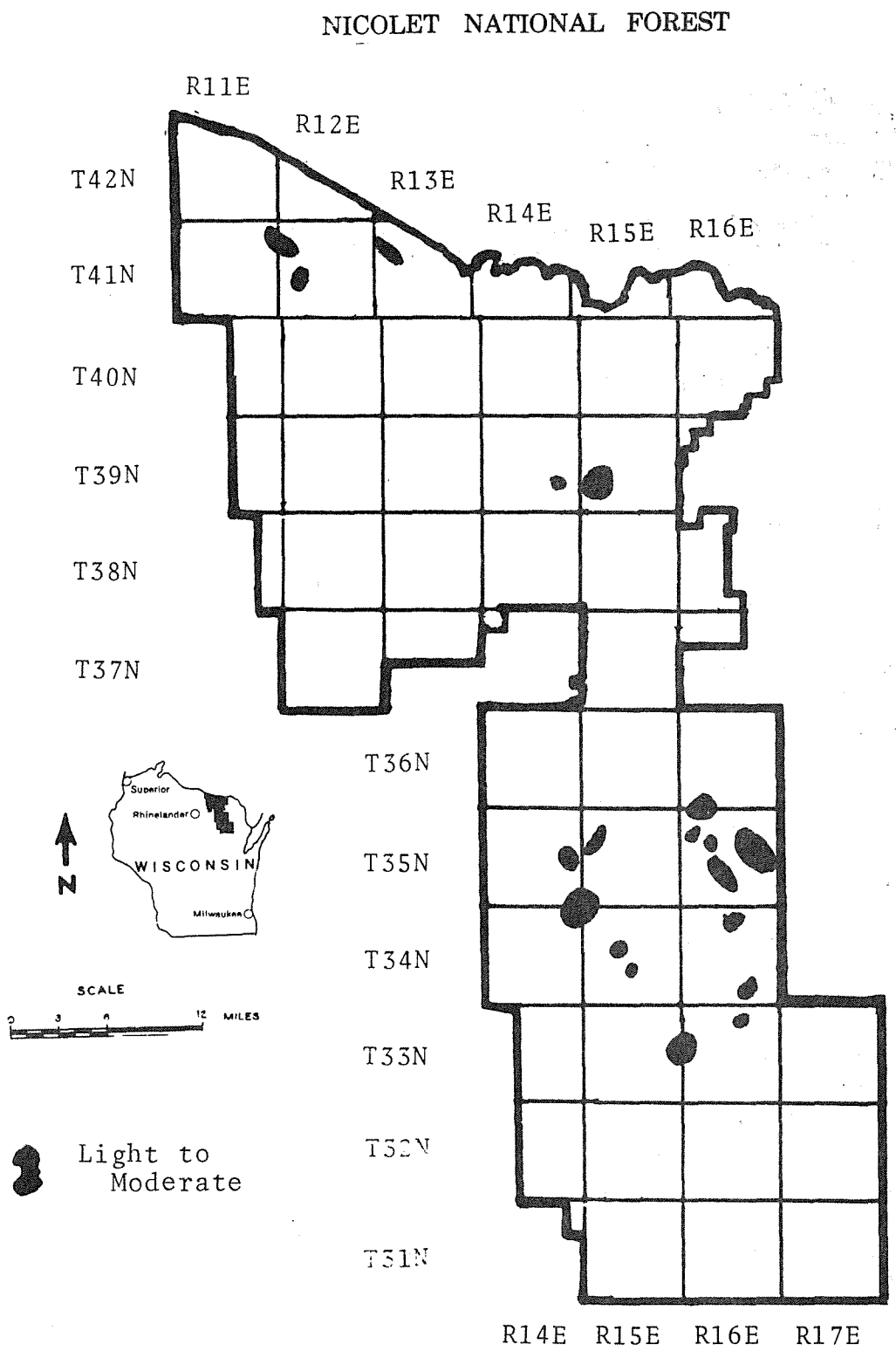
METHODS

The survey was flown June 21, 1972, in a Cessna 172 to delineate the defoliated areas. Flight lines were in a north-south direction 6-10 miles apart, 1000 feet above the ground at 120 mph. Defoliation was classed as light to moderate--visible crown thinning up to about 50% foliage loss--and moderate to heavy - more than half the crown lost to complete defoliation.

RESULTS

Light to moderate defoliation was seen in several aspen stands (see map). Moderate to heavy defoliation was observed on individual trees or in small groups of trees within larger stands of aspen.

The generally light to moderate defoliation indicates that the general outbreak is subsiding. No evidence of tree mortality or branch kill was observed from the air or during the ground survey conducted to confirm the aerial observations.



Large Aspen Tortrix Defoliation on the
Nicolet National Forest - 1972